

PATENT

Application No.: 09/525,875
Attorney Docket No.: 99-049REMARKS

Claims 1 to 31, 53, 54, and 66 were pending, and will remain pending upon entry of this amendment.

Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11 to 14, 54, and 66 have been amended herein.

Claims 1, 53, 54, and 66 are the only pending independent claims.

All pending claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as unpatentable over Tiberio (EP 0521599 A1) or Kaufman (4,624,459) in view of an article entitled "First Double Lotto Jackpot Pays Out Big: Search is on for \$16 Million Ticket Holder" dated September 12, 1996 (hereinafter "Double Lotto"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, solely to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 54, and 66 herein to recite that "the multiplier is selected at random" or that "the multiplier includes a randomly selected magnitude." This feature, originally recited in Claim 53, is clearly not taught, nor even suggested by any combination of the references. Further, in rejecting Claim 53, the Examiner has not identified (and Applicants cannot locate) any portion of any of the references that teaches this feature. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the Section 103 rejection.

Conclusion

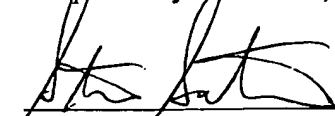
Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner's early re-examination and consideration are respectfully requested. If there remains any question regarding the present application, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is cordially requested to contact Steven Santisi at telephone number (203)461-7054 or via electronic mail at ssantisi@walkerdigital.com.

Please charge any fees that may be required for this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-0271. Furthermore, should an extension of time be required, please grant any extension of time which may be required to make this Amendment timely, and please charge any fee for such an extension to Deposit Account No. 50-0271.

December 27, 2002

Date

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Santisi

ssantisi@walkerdigital.com

Registration No. 40,157

Attorney for Applicants

Walker Digital, LLC

Five High Ridge Park

Stamford, CT 06905-1326

(203) 461-7054 /voice

(203) 461-7300 /fax

PATENT

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(Marked-Up Version)**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please **AMEND** Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11 to 14, 54, and 66 as follows:

1. (AMENDED) A method of processing lottery ticket sales comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to purchase at least one set of play indicia;

receiving a request to purchase at least one multiplier, wherein the multiplier is [chosen by a player] selected at random; and

associating the play indicia with the multiplier[; and

determining a price for the multiplier].

4. (AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving a request to purchase at least one multiplier includes offering for purchase a multiplier that [is] maybe at least one of a double multiplier, a triple multiplier, and a quadruple multiplier.

8. (AMENDED) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of prompting a cashier to offer to sell a second multiplier having a larger magnitude than the [player chosen] randomly selected multiplier.

9. (AMENDED) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying [the] a price of the [player chosen] randomly selected multiplier and at least one additional multiplier having a different magnitude than the [player chosen] randomly selected multiplier.

11. (AMENDED) The method of claim 1 [wherein the step of] further including determining [the] a price for the multiplier [includes computing an expected value of the multiplier].

PATENT

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Attorney Docket No.: 99-049

12. (AMENDED) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining the price includes determining the price based upon [the] an expected value of the multiplier.

13. (AMENDED) The method of claim [11] 12, wherein the step of computing includes computing the expected value of the multiplier based on at least the product of at least two of a probability of a set of play indicia being a winning set of play indicia, a value of a winning set of play indicia, and a sharing discount.

14. (AMENDED) The method of claim [1] 11 wherein the step of determining the price includes determining the price based upon at least one of: a mark-up value, a magnitude of the multiplier, a number of other multipliers sold, an anticipated number of other multipliers that will be sold, an average magnitude of other multipliers sold, a total magnitude of other multipliers sold, a set of other multipliers sold, a number of lottery players, a number of play indicia sets being sold, a number of other play indicia sets sold, an anticipated number of other play indicia sets that will be sold, a total number of play indicia sets sold, a number of unique play indicia sets sold, an anticipated number of additional play indicia sets that will be sold, an anticipated number of times a particular set of play indicia set will be sold, the probabilities of each of the possible quantities sold of each of the possible sets of play indicia that are sold, a number of play indicia sets associated with the multiplier, a number of winning play indicia sets to which the multiplier can be applied, a probability of winning a lottery, a size of a lottery jackpot, a lottery payout table, a set of lottery payout amounts, a type of lottery, a set of rules of a lottery, conditions defined to effect the magnitude of the multiplier, and external predefined conditions.

54. (AMENDED) A method of processing lottery ticket sales comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to purchase a plurality of sets of play indicia and a multiplier,
wherein the multiplier includes a randomly selected magnitude;

associating the plurality of sets of play indicia with the multiplier; and

determining a price for the multiplier based upon at least a quantity of the plurality of sets of play indicia associated with the multiplier.

PATENT

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Attorney Docket No.: 99-049

66. (AMENDED) A method of processing lottery ticket sales comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to purchase at least one multiplier, [wherein the multiplier is chosen by a player] wherein the multiplier includes a randomly selected magnitude and can be applied to a redemption value of at least one set of play indicia; and
determining a price for the multiplier.